(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the main objectives and mode of functioning of the Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) No, Sir. This Ministry has already one corporation by the name of National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Sikhs a Non-minority in Punjab

†4083. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per a recent order of High Court, Sikhs do not fall under the category of minority in Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether keeping in view the above said decision, Government is considering to amend that Act which states that a few communities have been given the status of minority at national level;

(d) whether Government has received any recommendation from the National Commission for Minorities; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the action taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The Constitution (One Hundred and Third Amendment) Bill to confer constitutional status on the National Commission for Minorities and the National Commission for Minorities (Repeal) Bill, 2004 were introduced in the Lok Sabha in December, 2004. The Bills were referred to the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment for examination. The recommendations of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment regarding the Bills have been received. These, alongwith related issues, are being examined.

(d) and (e) The National Commission for Minorities, in its Sixth Annual Report for 1998-1999, had made some recommendations regarding determination of minorities. The Report, alongwith Action Taken Memorandum thereon, was tabled in the Rajya Sabha on 14th May, 2007.

Maulana Azad Education Foundation Funds

4084. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the funds available with the Maulana Azad Education Foundation during 2007-08 for disbursal, could not be utilized fully;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the cases pending at present; and

(d) by when all the cases are likely to be cleared?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) During 2007-08, against the interest income of Rs. 21.60 crores onthe corpus fund, the Foundation sanctioned grants-in-aid amounting to Rs. 6.60 crores to 51 NGOs, and scholarships amounting to Rs. 4.26 crores to 3549 girls, taking into consideration the number of applications for grants-in-aid complete in all respects and the number of applications for scholarships received.

(c) and (d) The number of pending applications for grants-in-aid as on 30/09/2007, the last date for receiving applications for 2007-08, exceeded 800. In order to clear these pending applications for grants-in-aid, the Foundation has decided to consider applications received till 31/03/2007 by 31/10/2008.

Action plan for wind power energy

4085. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the action plan of Government to harness wind power energy in a big way, which has a good potential in the country, especially in Orissa;

(b) what is its existing generation per annum;

(c) whether Government proposes to involve private sector to give a boost to this sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) A target of 10,500 MW from wind power has been planned for Eleventh Five Year Plan Period in potential States of the country including Orissa.

(b) A total wind power capacity of 8757 MW has been installed in the country, till 31st March, 2008 and about 1500 MW wind power capacity gets added every year. Commercial wind power projects have not been set up in the State of Orissa so far.

(c) Yes, Sir. In fact the entire wind power capacity in the country has been created by the private sector barring a few demonstration projects.

(d) Of the total wind power capacity of 8757 MW Installed as on 31.03.2008 in the country, 8686 MW has been set up as commerical wind power projects with private sector investments.

Bio-fuel policy

4086. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to bring forward a bio-fuel-policy;